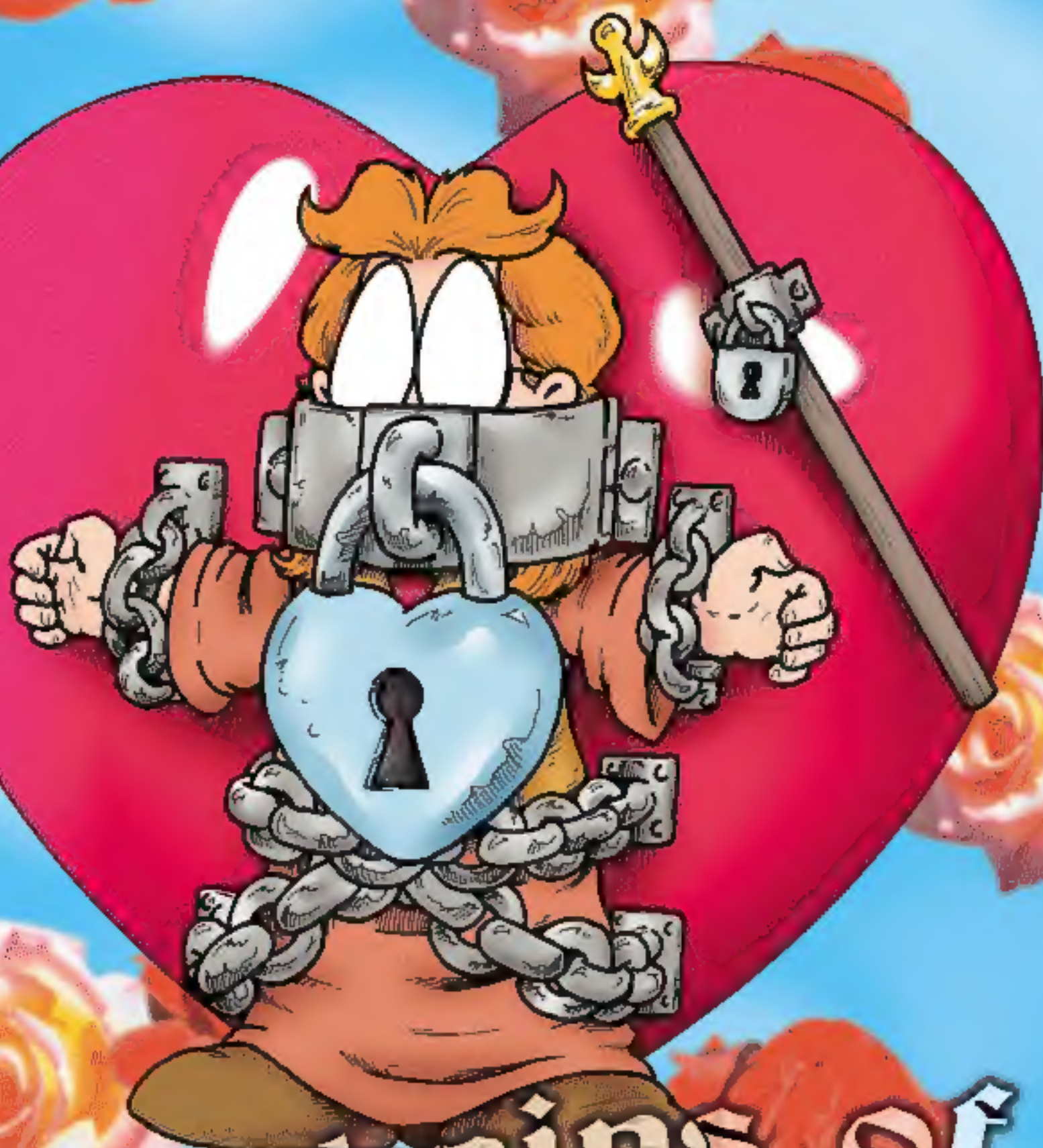




\$2.99 #13

Nodwick™



Chains of LOVE

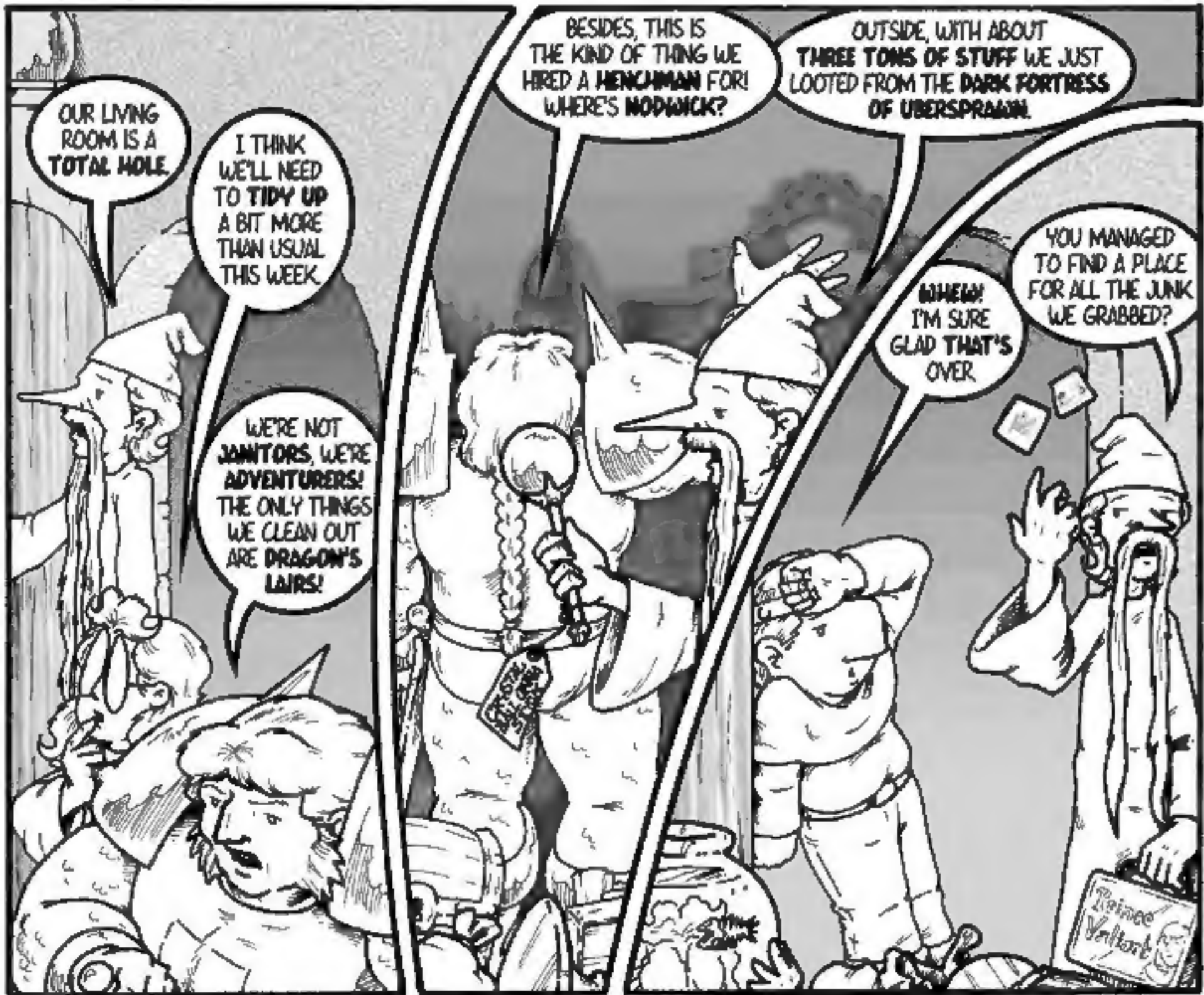


Nodwick

in:

CHAIN of LOVE





OUR LIVING ROOM IS A TOTAL HOLE.

I THINK WE'LL NEED TO TIDY UP A BIT MORE THAN USUAL THIS WEEK.

WE'RE NOT JANITORS, WE'RE ADVENTURERS! THE ONLY THINGS WE CLEAN OUT ARE DRAGON'S LAIRS!

BESIDES, THIS IS THE KIND OF THING WE HIRED A MENCHMAN FOR! WHERE'S NODWICK?

OUTSIDE, WITH ABOUT THREE TONS OF STUFF WE JUST LOOTED FROM THE DARK FORTRESS OF UBERSPRAWN.

WHEN I'M SURE GLAD THAT'S OVER.

YOU MANAGED TO FIND A PLACE FOR ALL THE JUNK WE GRABBED?

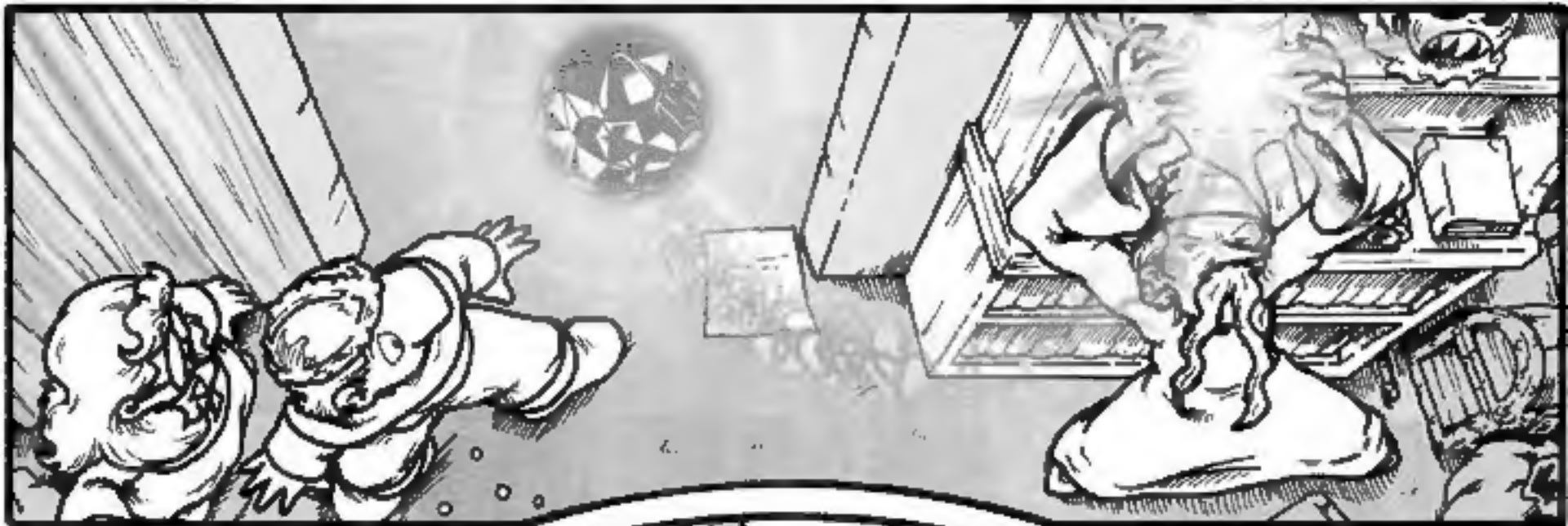


YEAH, I PUT IT ALL IN THE NORTH TOWER.

I THOUGHT WE ONLY HAD A SOUTH TOWER.

WE DID, BUT WE STARTED TO GET SUCH A HUGE PILE OF JUNK THAT I PUT THE MORE WEATHER-RESISTANT ITEMS ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE STACK, HOLLOWED OUT THE INSIDE, INSTALLED FLOORING—

OKAY, THAT DOES IT! I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO EVER USE THIS SPELL, BUT...





SATURDAY MORNING COMES, AS DO THE SHOPPERS...





DID YOU HEAR, FORTUNATO? NOW EEZ OUR CHANCE TO PUT OUR PLAN EENTO ACTION!

MASTER FRANSWA, I'M YOUR EVER-LOYAL COMPANION, BUT I REALLY DONT THINK THIS WILL WORK.



DESTINY EEZ ON OUR SIDE, MON AMI! ZAT VISION OF BEAUTY WHO EEZ RUNNING ZE STANDE DU LEMONADE HAS CAPTURED MY HEART! SHE MUST BE AT MY SIDE!

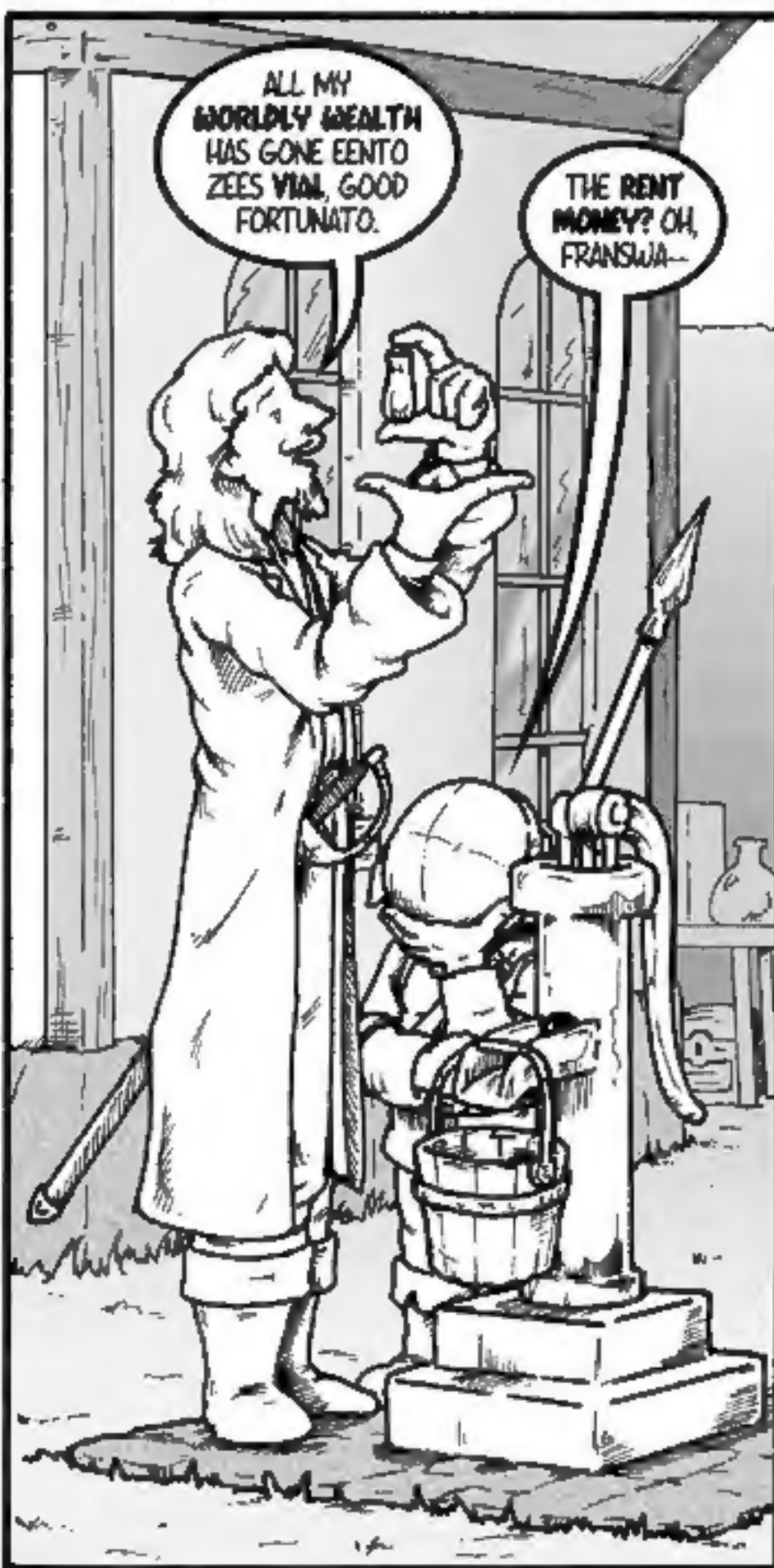
BUT SHE'S A CLERIC! EVEN IF SHE'S ABLE TO BE ROMANTIK, I DONT THINK YOUR COLORFUL PAST WOULD WORK WELL WITH--



DESTINY, I TELL YOU SAY EET!

SIGH... DESTINY.

ZEN YOU AGREE! BON! COME, WE MUST HURRY!



ALL MY WORLDLY WEALTH HAS GONE EENTO ZEES VIAL, GOOD FORTUNATO.

THE RENT MONEY? OH, FRANSWA--



EET EEZ ZE MOST POTENT OF LOVE POTIONS EVER CREATED! ANY WHO HAVE A MERE DROP OF EET FALL MADLY EEN LOVE WEETH WHOEVER ZEY FIRST LAY EYES ON!

EET CAN ONLY BE CURED BY A KEESS FROM ZE ONE ZEY ARE ENSNARED BY!

A KEESS? OH, A KISS. YOU'VE GOT TO WORK ON YOUR DICTION. REMEMBER HOW THE LAST FELLOW YOU DUELED WITH THOUGHT YOU WANTED HIM TO EAT A BLANKET WHEN YOU MEANT FOR HIM TO EAT SH--

WE SHALL PUT ZE POTION IN ZEE BUCKET, ZEE HENCHMAN WILL FILL EET UP, AND ZEN WE MOVE ON TO STAGE DEUX! AND WE WILL SUCCEED PORQUOI?

UM, DESTINY?

OUI!

THE BUCKET
ISNT FOR SALE.



OH, BUT OF COURSE!
HOW SILLY OF ME! I SHALL LOOK
ELSEWHERE FOR MY BUCKET NEEDS!
MERCI, MON AMI AVEC DE CHAPEAU
METALLIQUE!



WHAT
HE SAID.



IF YOU WAIT
JUST A MOMENT, SIR, I'LL
HAVE YOUR LEMONADE
READY!



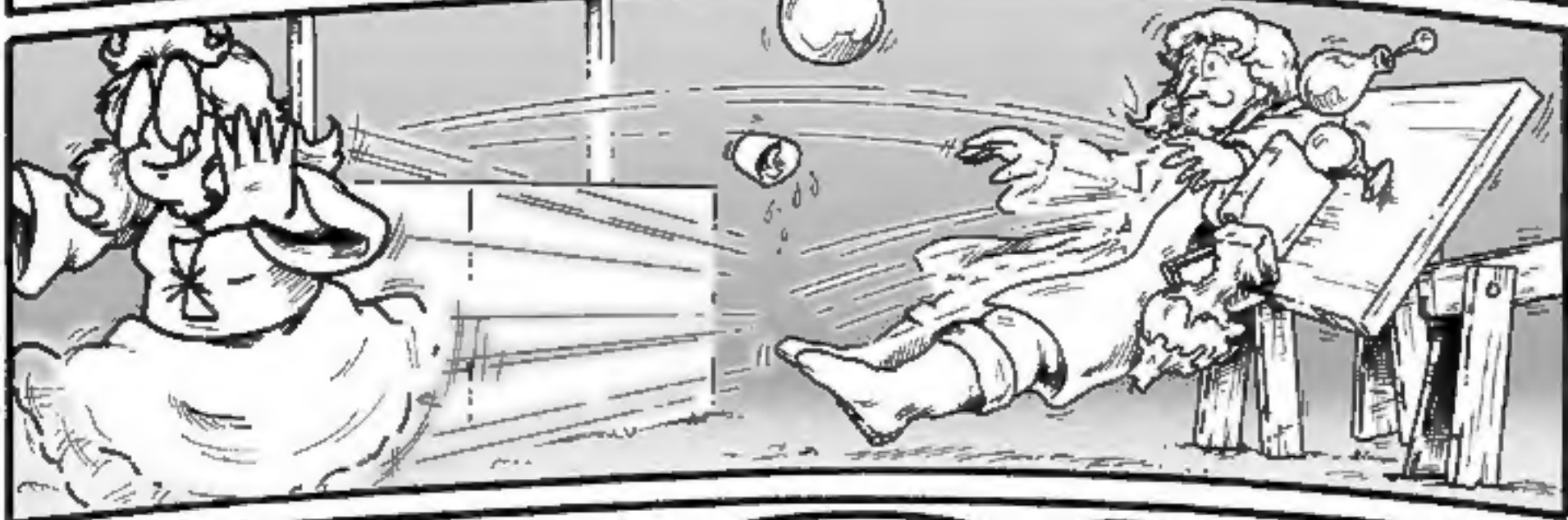
HERE'S
YOUR WATER.

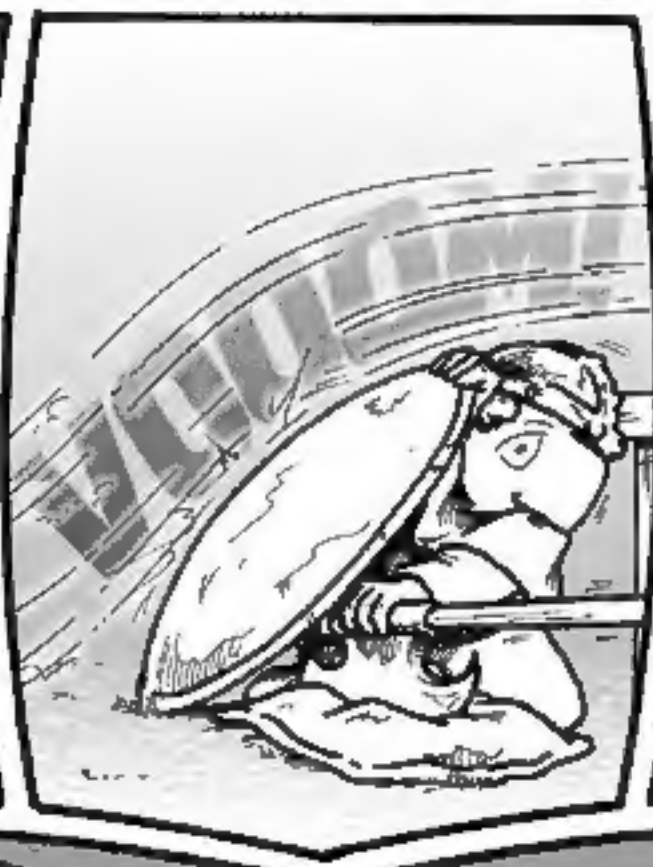


THANK YOU! JUST
POUR IT INTO THE TUB WITH
THE OTHER INGREDIENTS AND
I'LL DO THE REST.









MY HEAD FEELS ALL GOOPY AND STUFF...
AND WHY IS NODWICK SO SCRUMPTIOUSLY HONEY-
CUTE LOOKING ALL OF A SUDDEN. OOOH, THAT
HEAVENLY-LOOKING NOSE, THAT DARLING HELMET,
I JUST WANNA GRAB HIM ALL UP AND SMOOCH—





IS HE
G-G-GONE?

YEAH, I
PUT HIM BACK
TO WORK. I
GOT SOME
OTHER GUY
RUNNING THE
LEMONADE
STAND FOR A
WHILE SO IF
YOU NEED
A BREAK--



DANG. GOOD THING WE
TOOK THE DOORS OFF THE HOUSE
TO MAKE THESE TABLES...



MADAM, PLEASE!
ER, MY HEART BELONGS
TO ANOTHER, I'M SORRY TO
SAY, FOR I WOULD GLADLY
SHARE YOUR EMBRACE
WERE IT NOT FOR ZEE--

RIFFANY'S
~~LEMONADE~~
ONADE

YOU'D SHARE WHAT
WITH MY WIFE?

YOU DO NOT
UNDERSTAND, SHE DRANK
ZEE LEMONADE, AND EET
EEZ--



ER, THERE WASN'T ANY
WAX, AND THE STOPPER FELL
OUT WHEN YOU WERE WAVING
THE BOTTLE AROUND.



I SHOULD NEVER HAVE
LEFT THE HOUSE WITHOUT
HAVING MY MORNING CUP
OF COFFEE...



WE USED THIS THING TO TAKE OUT
THE TWO-THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD GATES ON THE
LAIR OF THE FOREST LICH, SO I DON'T THINK YOU'LL
HAVE ANY PROBLEMS USING IT TO LET THE PEOPLE
IN THE APARTMENT ABOVE YOU KNOW THEY'RE
BEING TOO NOISY.



DID YOU
JUST HEAR SOME
SCREAMING?

WELL, WE JUST MOVED
A LOT OF MERCHANDISE IN THE
MAGIC STUFF AREA, SO WE'VE
GOT SPACE IF YOU WANT TO
ADD SOME MORE ITEMS.



I DIDN'T KNOW THAT
DEMONIC BEINGS HONORED
BREAKAGE POLICIES, OF COURSE,
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY CARRIED
MONEY, EITHER.

WELL THAT'S
GREAT! I'LL HAVE
THAT FRANSWA GUY
MIND THE STORE AND
WE'LL GO RESTOCK
THE SHELVES!



MUST NOT
KISS NODWICK.
MUST NOT
KISS NODWICK.
MUST NOT
KISS NODWICK.

THEY
MADE YOU
HAUL ALL OF
THESE THINGS
HERE?
WHY?

I'M NOT SURE.
MAYBE IT'S SOME KIND
OF MASOCHISM
MANIFESTING ITSELF IN
INTERIOR DECORATION.
HEY, PIFFANY, WE'RE
MOVING PILE TWENTY-
TWO OUTSIDE, OKAY?

WHACK!
WHACK!
WHACK!
WHACK!

SO HOW COME WE'RE
DOING ALL THE WORK AND
SHE'S TAKING A NAP?

SHE MAY HAVE FOUND
OUT THAT YOU SOLD HALF OF
HER POKERMANE COLLECTION
AND FAINTED.

A FEW HOURS LATER.

WOW, WE'VE
REALLY BEEN MOVING
THE MERCHANDISE!

I AM A TAD CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE KIDS YOU SOLD SOME
OF MY OLD WANDS TO. I'M PRETTY SURE SOME OF THEM WERE STILL
CHARGED, AND I'M CERTAIN THAT THE SMOKE RISING FROM TWO BLOCKS
AWAY WASN'T THERE BEFORE

I HAVE SOLD
THEM ALL

REALLY?
EVERY
ONE?

OUI, MONSIEUR.
ZEE CAPTAIN OF ZEE GUARD WAS EENTERESTED IN HAVING
YOUR USED UNMENTIONABLES. ZEE NEXT TIME ZEE KING
NEEDED TO EMPLOY CHEMICAL WARFARE
ON ZEE NEIGHBORING FIEFDOM.

MERCI, AU
REVOIR.

HEY, YOU
DROPPED
THIS.

KEEP EET.
EET HAS CAUSED
ME NOTHING BUT
TROUBLE.

I ALMOST
FORGOT: WHERE
DID YOU PUT THE
MONEY FROM
YOUR SALES?

ZAT VISION OF
CLERICAL PERFECTION
TOOK IT AWAY,
MONSIEUR.

YOU MEAN
PIFFANY?

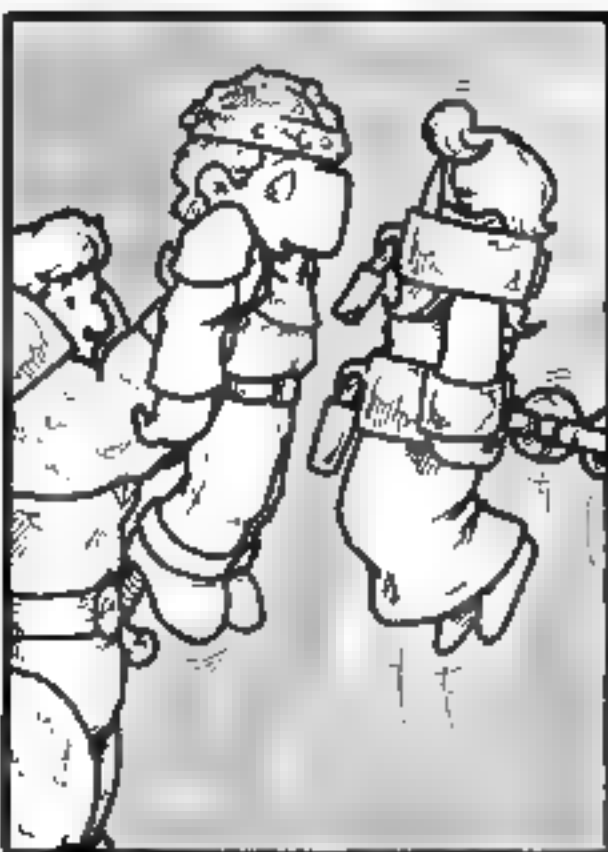
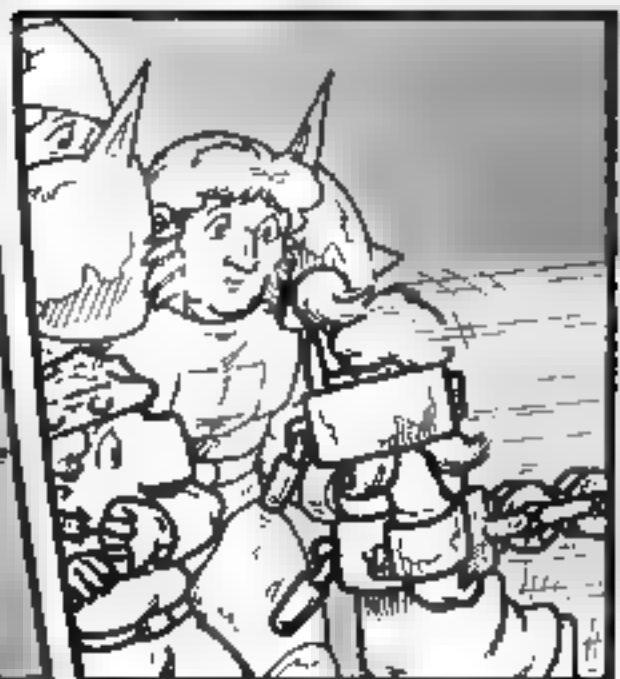
OUI, SHE
SEEMED MOST
INSISTANT.

HERE'S YOUR
RECEIPT, SIR FRITZ
BLACKSMITHING THANKS
YOU FOR YOUR
PATRONAGE.

HUH?



MOMENTS LATER, IN THE BASEMENT...





THAT'S
JUST PLAIN
WEIRD.

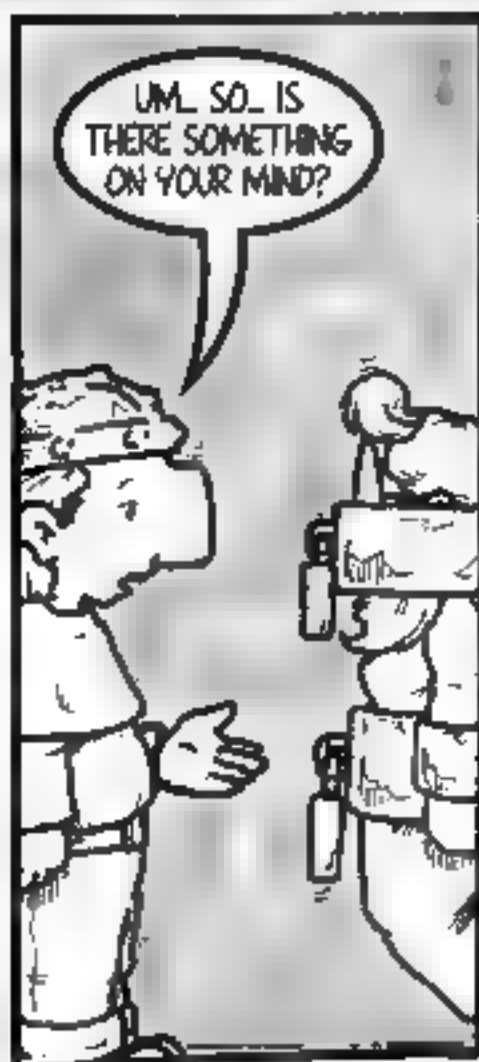
IT'S KIND
OF FUN,
THOUGH.



THE TOWN GUARD IS HERE.
THEY WANT TO HAVE A
WORD WITH SOMEONE
ABOUT SELLING **MAGICAL
WEAPONS**
TO MINORS.

YOU BLUFF THE
GUARD. I'LL STASH THE
REALLY DANGEROUS
ITEMS UNTIL
THEY LEAVE.

GOT IT.
NODWICK, SEE
IF YOU CAN
FIGURE OUT
WHAT'S **WRONG**
WITH PIF,
OKAY?



UM, SO, IS
THERE SOMETHING
ON YOUR MIND?



YOU, **CONSTANTLY**. I CAN'T HELP MYSELF.
I WANT TO KISS YOU MORE THAN **ANYTHING ELSE IN**
THE **WORLD** RIGHT NOW, AND I DON'T KNOW **WHY**, AND
I CAN'T KISS YOU, BECAUSE IT ISN'T RIGHT.

WELL, WE'RE EMPLOYER
AND EMPLOYEE, SO I AGREE WE SHOULD
REMAIN **PROFESSIONAL**, AND...



NO, YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND. LOOK, I'M GOING
TO TELL YOU THE **BIGGEST
SECRET** I HAVE AND YOU CAN'T
TELL ANYONE. YOU'VE GOTTA
DOUBLE-DOGGIE DARE
PROMISE ME YOU
WON'T TELL ANYONE
EVER. OKAY?

UM, ALL RIGHT.
I PROMISE.

YEARS AGO, THE SISTERS
IN MY ORDER WERE TOLD BY
THE POWERS WHAT IS THAT
I WAS GOING TO BE SPECIAL
NOT JUST A GOOD PERSON OR
SOMEONE IMPORTANT, BUT
SOMEONE WITH A GIFT.

YOU KNOW HOW MOMMIES KISS
BOO-BOOS AND "MAKE IT ALL BETTER?"
WELL, THAT'S SORT OF WHAT MY FIRST
KISS WILL DO. WHOEVER I GIVE MY FIRST
KISS TO, IT WILL "MAKE IT ALL BETTER"
FOR THEM. IT WILL RE-WRITE THE
COSMOS TO MAKE THAT PERSON'S
LIFE THE BEST IT CAN
POSSIBLY BE.

IF
EVERYONE
FOUND OUT
ABOUT IT... THERE
COULD BE WARS
OVER ME OR
WORSE...

AND I TAKE IT THIS IS A
ONE-TIME OFFER, RIGHT?

YES! I WANT TO MAKE SURE IT
GOES TO THE RIGHT PERSON AND YOU'RE
A DEAR, DEAR FRIEND, BUT I'M THINKING
THAT THIS GIFT WAS MEANT TO DO
SOMETHING LIKE SAVE THE WORLD OR,
OH, GOODNESS YOU'RE SO ADORABLE. ARE
YOU WEARING PERFUME?

UM, NO, THAT'S
BRIMSTONE, I THINK YOU SEE
THIS WIZARD OPENED A
BOTTLE AND...

YOU'VE GOT TO
FIND A WAY TO HELP ME,
NODWICK I CAN'T GO ON
LIKE THIS, AND IF WE DON'T
DO SOMETHING, I THINK
MY HEART WILL BREAK
INTO TINY PIECES!

DON'T WORRY,
WE'LL GET YOU BACK TO
NORMAL SOMEHOW!

I PROMISE...

...AND IF YOU WANT MY OPINION, THEY PROBABLY BOUGHT THE WANDS FROM THIS GEEZER WHO I SUSPECT OF STEALING A BATTERING RAM WE HAD HERE. GOOD LUCK WITH THE ARREST!

AND THANKS FOR THE TICKETS TO THE TOWN GUARD BALL!

GUYS, WE HAVE A PROBLEM...

PIFFANY HAS AN IRRESISTABLE URGE TO KISS ME, BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHY. SHE'S TRYING TO FIGHT IT, BUT I DON'T THINK SHE CAN HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER.

IT SOUNDS LIKE A LOVE POTION TO ME, A STRONG ONE AT THAT...

I ~~KNEW~~ THIS WOULD GO BADLY!

YOU KNEW ~~WHAT~~ WOULD GO BADLY?

UM, WELL... I SAW THIS... ~~MMM~~ HE PUT SOMETHING IN THE LEMONADE WHEN NO ONE WAS LOOKING. AH, FRANSWA AND I TRIED TO STOP HIM... YES, THAT'S IT... BUT HE GOT AWAY.

THAT SOMETHING WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE THIS, WOULD IT?

OH, THAT IS THE POTION I—

THE POTION THAT THE... MAN, UM, THREW AT MY MASTER. IT HIT FRANSWA IN THE HEAD, AND THAT WAS HOW THE CAD ESCAPED... AH, EM.

OKAY, THAT SOUNDS PLAUSIBLE. WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO SELLING THINGS FOR A WHILE BEFORE YOU GET CROSS-EXAMINED.

THANKS.

THIS IS PRETTY POWERFUL MAGIC. "IMBIBER MUST KISS THE FIRST VISAGE THEY BEHOLD, AND THEIR DESIRE TO DO SO WILL NEVER BE SLAKED TILL LIPS MEET THEIR IMAGE OF TRUE LOVE." AT LEAST IT'S TEMPORARY.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? ONE SMOOCH FROM THE HENCHMAN AND SHE'S BACK TO HER OLD SELF, RIGHT?

WELL, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. SHE CAN'T KISS ME.

WHY NOT?

IT WOULD BE BAD.

BAD HOW?

ABOUT AS BAD AS HER FINDING OUT ABOUT YOUR "TROLL INSURANCE" SCAM, YOUR "FLYING POTION" SCAM, THE "BARROOM FIRE DRILL" INCIDENT, THE--

OH, THAT KIND OF BAD.

OKAY, OKAY, NO KISSING.

LATER...

HOW'S IT GOING?

ARTAX HAS HAD HER GO OVER WHAT HAPPENED THIS MORNING ABOUT EIGHT TIMES. I DON'T KNOW IF HE'LL BE ABLE TO THINK UP A SOLUTION THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE LIP-LOCK.

I THINK I HAVE A PLAN.

NODWICK, I'M GOING TO NEED AN ITEM FROM THE YARD SALE YEAGAR GET READY TO UNSHACKLE PIFFANY.

MOMENTS LATER...



KA-
SMOOCH!



THANKS FOR
NOT TELLING THEM
WHY, YOU KNOW.

DON'T MENTION IT. I THINK WE'RE
ALL BETTER OFF WITH THEM IN THE DARK. BY THE
WAY, HOW WILL YOU KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO,
WELL, USE YOUR GIFT?



I'M NOT
SURE. I JUST
ASSUME IT'LL
BE PRETTY
OBVIOUS.

DO YOU
SMELL SOMETHING
BURNING?



WHAT
HAPPENED?!

WELL, THIS GUY WITH A BATTERING RAM VIOLENTLY
DEMANDED A REFUND, AND THEN A DIMENSIONAL GATE OPENED,
RELEASING A VERY EXCITABLE WIZARD BEING CHASED BY A DEMONIC HORDE.
THAT WAS FOLLOWED BY SOME KIDS SHOOTING OFF FIREBALL
HANDS BEING PURSUED BY THE TOWN GUARD.

EVERYTHING WENT
INTO A DOWNWARD SPIRAL
AFTER THAT...

HEY, THAT WAS A
PRICELESS HAND-CARVED
TORTURE DEVICE YOU JUST
SET FIRE TO! YOU OWE US
BIG TIME!







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